

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, VN
SUBJ: PRG LIAISON OFFICE AT UN

REF: (A) STATE 61999; (B) USUN 1159

SUMMARY. AMB PHILLIPS MADE FURTHER DEMARCHE TO SYG APR 4 AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL (A). WALDHEIM, WHILE MAINTAINING HE HAD OBLIGATION TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH PRG RE HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, ASSURED PHILLIPS THAT CONTENT OF RESPONSE TO MADAME BINH HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED AND THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH USUN RE RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING APRIL 4 ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO INTRODUCE HEAD OF US LOS DELEGATION, PHILLIPS AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE. HE TOLD WALDHEIM THAT HE HAD NEW INSTRUCTION TO REITERATE FIRM U. S. OBJECTIONS TO ANY KIND OF FORMAL INSTITUTIONALIZED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UN AND PRG, WHETHER IN THE FORM OF OBSERVER OR LIAISON MISSION AND THAT USG DID NOT SEE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR SUGGESTION THAT CONTINUING FORMAL CONTACT WAS REQUIRED TO PURSUE HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS. WHOLE PRG EFFORT, PHILLIPS CONTINUED, HAS POLITICAL BASIS, DESPITE REFERENCES TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CONSIDERATIONS. DRV AND PRG HAD DISPLAYED NO SERIOUS INTEREST IN AID, SO JUSTIFICATION FOR FORMAL LIAISON DID NOT EXIST. BASIC PURPOSES WERE POLITICAL AND PRG WAS INVOKING " ASSISTANCE " ARGUMENT AS INDIRECT MEANS OF ACHIEVING POLITICAL GOAL. AT PRESENT, PHILLIPS SAID, THERE IS NO APPARENT REQUIREMENT FOR FORMAL CONTACT;
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IF CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, THEN APPROPRIATE AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.

2. SYG RESPONDED THAT US, GOING BEYOND EARLIER DEMARCHES CLEARLYEN AS OBSERVER. SYG TWICE STATED " THERE IS NO DECISION." CHI ASKED SYG WHAT IDEAS HE HAD FOR REPLY. SYG SAID GVN COULD BE CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD BE A CAREFUL ANSWER. WOULD APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVER INFLUENCE SYG' S ATTITUDE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE? SYG SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE AN ANSWER BUT WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THAT QUESTION.

4. CHI REVIEWED CONTENTS OF AIDE MEMORIE PRESENTED IN PREVIOUS MEETING AND STRESSED TO SYG GVN CONCERN THAT WRONG ACTION BY WALDHEIM NOW COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUTCOME OF PARIS CONFERENCE AND FUTURE OF VIETNAM. SYG ASSURED CHI THAT HE UNDERSTANDS " PERFECTLY WELL THAT THIS IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM WITH SERIOUS POLITICAL AND LEGAL COMPLICATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE SHOULD STUDY PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, BUT THIS IS ALL I CAN TELL YOU AT THIS TIME."

5. CHI ASKED IF SYG BELIEVED PRG AND DRV ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN UN ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FACT TWO ENTITIES HAVE HERETOFORE COMPLETEY IGNORED UN AUTHORITY AND COMPETENCE. SINCE NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON HOW UN ASSISTANCE WILL BE SHARED, CHI ASKED , WHY IS PRG IN SUCH HURRY TO OPEN OFFICE ? SYG, WHO VIETNAMESE REPORT SEEMED TO BE EMBARRASSED AT THIS QUESTION, RESPONDED SIMPLY THAT WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION IT WAS UP TO PRG TO GIVE EXPLANATION. CHI CONCLUDED DEMARCHE BY STRESSING THAT PRC ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO SEEK POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGES.

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